In the Claims:

Please replace the claims with the following listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a queue of messages, each message representing at least one request for an update to a database, the method comprising:

    browsing ~~a~~ messages of a work queue for an update request, the update request queued at least a predetermined number of messages ahead of a currently executing database request, the work queue comprising a combination of update requests and database requests received for a database management system (DBMS);

    identifying ~~extracting~~ the update request from a browsed message in the work queue~~an update request; and~~

    sending a pretend update request to the ~~a database management system (DBMS)~~ responsible for the database which is to be updated, the pretend update request derived from the update request;

    translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not execute ~~an~~ ~~the~~ update operation, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when ~~a corresponding real~~ the update request is processed; and ~~requested.~~

    wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the method further comprises,

        retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;associating the identifier with the retained

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predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of the real update request, such that the retained predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and

returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim1, further comprising initiating a real update request by destructively getting a message from a queue comprising the update request, the real update request using prefetched data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein initiating a real update request is performed by a master thread and browsing a message is performed by one or more read ahead threads.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein processing of the master thread is maintained behind the read ahead thread by a predetermined amountnumber of messages.

6. (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

~~translating the pretend update request into a prefetch request in a predetermined~~

~~form;~~

associating the pretend update request with an identifier by the DBMS;

receiving the identifier from the DBMS; and

issuing the real update request by sending the identifier with the update request.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising informing a memory manager that
the prefetched data used may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the
prefetched data in the processing of a real update request.

9.   (Cancelled).

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Cancelled).

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Cancelled).

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer implemented~~ method for facilitating database performance by pre-processing update requests to a database management system (DBMS) for a queue of messages, comprising:

    executing a computer program product configured to:

        receive an update request at the DBMS;

        receive an indication at the DBMS indicating that the update request is a pretend update request that directs the DBMS to not execute the update but instead to prefetch data for the update request;

        translate the pretend update request into a prefetch request <u>comprising an indication that directs the DBMS to not execute the update operation, but instead to prefetch data that will be required when the update request is processed</u>;

        prefetch required data based on the prefetch request; and

    receiving a real update request at the DBMS; ~~and~~

executing the real update request using the prefetched data;

informing a memory manager that the prefetched data may be discarded from memory subsequent to the use of the prefetched data in the processing of a real update request; and

wherein the prefetch request has a predetermined form comprising at least an identifier and the method further comprises,

retaining the predetermined form of the prefetch request;

associating the identifier with the retained predetermined form in order that the predetermined form can be identified and used in subsequent performance of the real update request, such that retained predetermined form is used by the DBMS in place of parsing the real update request; and

returning the identifier in response to the pretend update request.

20.   (Cancelled)